

National Resource Centers and
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

EUROPE

Kalamazoo College
Center for Western European Studies

FY 00-02

Abstracts
International Education and Graduate Programs Service
US Department of Education
Washington, DC 20006-8521

Since its inception in 1987-88, the Center for Western European Studies (CWES) at Kalamazoo College has pursued three fundamental objectives: 1) to provide undergraduates with a broad array of opportunities -- curricular, co-curricular, off-campus, and overseas -- to deepen their understanding of Western European languages, societies, civilizations and cultures; 2) to provide a firm basis upon which our best students can go on to graduate or professional training as Europeanists; 3) to develop and sustain effective programs of outreach to the wider community, and especially to the community of educators. In developing its programs and articulating its objectives, the CWES has drawn upon Kalamazoo College's rich tradition of curricular and experiential innovation, especially in the area of Study Abroad. Since 1961 more than eighty percent of all Kalamazoo graduates have studied abroad, the highest percentage of any institution of higher learning in the United States; and of that number, about seventy percent have studied in Western Europe.

In 1988, 1991, 1994, and 1997 the CWES received Title VI funding which allowed it to implement a number of important programs, many of which were intended to establish closer linkages between our students' overseas experiences and their activities on campus. These have ranged from new course offerings (disciplinary and interdisciplinary) in language and non-language departments; initiatives in foreign language across the curriculum, including a group of "Interlocking Courses"; speakers' and film series; an annual Distinguished European Speaker; and opportunities for innovative undergraduate research in Western European area studies. Through ongoing faculty discussion groups ("COTERIES"), support for faculty research, and support for library and media acquisitions, especially in the area of new technologies, the CWES has also encouraged faculty from a variety of disciplines (including the natural sciences and the fine arts) to participate in its activities and develop teaching and research interests in Western Europe. Finally, the Center's outreach efforts have made it visible not only in this part of the country but nationally and internationally, through activities ranging from an annual conference (in which secondary teachers are always included) to teacher workshops on the Web, a cooperative relationship with a local magnet school, and a teacher-managed Outreach Committee.

The CWES wishes to build upon these successes as it applies for Title VI funding for the 2000-2003 triennium. The CWES is seeking support for eight new courses (six non-language, two language) and for a wide range of co-curricular activities, including COTERIES, "Eurolunches" and "Eurocolloquia," faculty and student research, a regular speakers' series, a European Business Speakers' series, an annual Student Conference on Europe, an Occasional Publications series, the Distinguished European Visitor, library and media collections, and two annual film series (in the summer and fall). It also seeks to expand its collaboration with traditional Kalamazoo partners in Bonn and Strasbourg as well as with the University of Michigan and Western Michigan University. Its teacher outreach efforts in 2000-2003 will include annual summer institutes for secondary teachers, begun in the present triennium. It will also seek support for its annual conferences, for teacher workshops during the school year, and for its outreach programs in local schools, including the local magnet school. In its activities the CWES addresses the issues identified in Section 427 of GEPA, and will develop assessment instruments consistent with recent legislation.

**University of Minnesota
Consortium of European Studies Centers**

The Consortium of European Studies Centers at the University of Minnesota seeks designation as a Comprehensive National Resource Center in Western European Area Studies and requests funding for initiatives designed to enhance our capacities relating to Western European Studies at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional school levels. Building on our rapidly growing Western European faculty strengths, the Consortium requests funding for the following:

Language Project

- Development of 3 FLAC modules in French in History and Sociology
- Development of 3 FLAC modules in German in Management and History
- Development of 3 FLAC modules in Spanish in History, Education, and Management
- Development of 1 FLIP course in French
- Development of 1 FLIP course in German
- Development of 1 FLIP course in Spanish
- Summer instruction in intensive Swedish
- Summer instruction in intensive Dutch
- Diverse perspectives courses for European LCTLs in History and Political Science
- Freshman Seminar in Greece

Curriculum Development Projects

Undergraduate

- Development of 3 new European issues courses in Linguistics and History

Graduate

- Integration of European content into 3 Public Affairs courses
- Integration of European content into 3 Education courses
- Integration of European content into 2 Agriculture courses
- Integration of European content into 4 Health Sciences courses

Library Projects

- Development of Western European library collections

Outreach Projects

- Special seminars for Minnesota Trade Office, State Legislature, Governor's Office, and University of Minnesota Western European faculty
- K-12 summer institutes on holocaust studies, Scandinavian studies, and Austrian studies
- Summer institutes for teachers of less commonly taught Western European languages
- Annual colloquia series on Western European Studies
- Annual conference on Western European Studies

FLAS Fellowships

- 5 Academic Year fellowships
- 5 Summer Fellowships

**University of Pittsburgh
Center for West European Studies**

The University of Pittsburgh's Center for West European Studies, established in 1984, is one of the premier institutions for the study of West Europe in the United States. The Center has used previous National Resource Center grants to expand its undergraduate program and to attract greater funding from both internal and external sources, culminating with the selection of the Center by the European Commission as one of only ten European Union Centers in the United States. Targeted at graduate students and at strengthening the program's policy focus, strengthening the role of technology and electronic curriculum educational outreach, and in engaging the business community, the new EU Center complements rather than duplicates NRC funding. NRC funding has been used as a part of a successful plan to leverage further funding so that it would be exponential rather than additive in impact. Indicators of success include a 6% increase in language and area studies course enrollment and a remarkable 500% increase in participation in outreach events. The NRC grant constitutes a crucial part of the Center's budget, but it amounts to only 3.1% of the Center's total budget, including all University contributions. This proposal for an undergraduate center and FLAS awards expands the undergraduate program by deepening the attention paid to historical and contemporary issues of cultural evolution and identity in Western Europe.

This proposal builds on the Center's strengths and increases the scope and quality of the University's undergraduate certificate program. The Center's distinguished and internationally known faculty are at the core of the extensive program. The law school is a key new partner in this proposal. Programs related to "Emergent Europe: Law, Culture, Ideas and Power" will explore the role of power, ideas, and law in defining the culture and identity of Europe and its constituent nations. This theme will guide the Center in programming in several areas. The University's strong language program has a comprehensive program in the major European languages as well as in Italian and Portuguese, two less commonly taught languages.

First, adding seven new undergraduate courses will expand the Center's core undergraduate curriculum. The law school's partnership in two new undergraduate courses, one to be taught in French, will add great value to our program and foster future cooperation. Second, the Center will continue its successful speaker and workshop series and offer new teacher and outreach programs consistent with the program's theme. Third, the University will augment and update its extensive West European library holdings.

Teacher training continues to be a centerpiece of the Center's Outreach program, with initiatives for K-12 and post-secondary teachers in teaching languages and area studies. A Summer Library Fellowship will be offered to secondary and post-secondary teachers to give them a month's residence in Pittsburgh to use the University's extensive West European electronic and print library collection. Technology is essential to teacher training, outreach and community involvement. The Center will coordinate four web sites, including a "Teaching the EU" and "Teaching Languages" web sites. Cumulatively, the sites will provide access to European resources to individuals throughout the world.

Continued NRC funding will be used as an instrument to "add value" to the Center's existing programs as well as to continue to attract non-NRC funding.

University of Washington
Center for West European Studies

Background. Interest in Western Europe has always been strong at the University of Washington, in part because of Seattle's large Scandinavian-American ethnic community, but it has grown dramatically in recent years due to economic trends (our state now ranks #3 in the value of exports to Europe) and faculty initiatives. New degree programs have been created in Scandinavian Area Studies (1982), German Area Studies (1990), European Studies (1994) and Trans-Atlantic Studies (1997). The number of majors in European Studies has more than doubled since 1996 and 46% of our students earning a Certificate in International Business now enroll in West European tracks. Since 1996 our study abroad programs in Western Europe have increased from 65 to 104, and the UW now sends 54% more students to Europe than it did 3 years ago.

UW Resources. The UW offers instruction in 10 West European languages, including three or more levels in Danish, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Spanish and Swedish. Our Scandinavian Studies Department is the largest in the U.S. The UW's 269 WES faculty currently offer 1,042 non-language courses in 22 departments and 6 professional schools. In 1998 the UW was selected by the EU Commission as one of 10 universities in the U.S. to host an official European Union Center. Our UW library ranks 12th in North America overall and possesses one of the best West European Studies collections in the country.

CWES Mission and Activities. The UW Center for West European Studies is dedicated to promoting the study of Western Europe in the Northwest and throughout the region and the nation. Over the past few years CWES has launched a unique graduate program in Trans-Atlantic Studies with UNC-Duke and 6 partner universities in Europe; established with UC-Berkeley and the Univ. of Minnesota a successful National Institute for Summer Scandinavian Studies (NISSS); organized with NYU-Columbia and Indiana Univ. a series of conferences assessing the legacy of the Cold War for Western Europe; enhanced UW language programs by funding new faculty and offering Language Trailer Sections; funded the development of new interdisciplinary courses; developed new student and faculty exchange opportunities in Europe; and brought scores of distinguished speakers to campus in for major conferences and other events. As the only West European NRC between Minneapolis and Berkeley, our CWES has viewed its outreach mission as especially important. Our extensive K-12 program has provided clock hours for participation in a wide range of workshops, and 700 teachers now receive our newsletter. We have created a Regional Faculty Travel Fund to facilitate participation in UW events and co-sponsored conferences with other Northwest universities. We have created a Downtown Advisory Committee to enhance our outreach capacity and organized K-12 workshops with organizations such as the Seattle Art Museum and the Washington Council for International Trade.

New Initiatives for 2000-2003. We plan to establish in collaboration with NYU-Columbia and Indiana Univ. a Summer Institute for Southern European Studies (SISES) offering intensive Greek and Italian along with area studies courses; launch the teaching of two levels of modern Greek during the academic year; develop a European component of the UW's new undergraduate program in international law and society; fund the development of courses for new EU Studies and Hellenic Studies certificate programs; organize with NYU-Columbia and Indiana Univ. a series of conferences on "New Visions of the European City" as well as conferences on the films of Luis Bunuel and European-African relations; co-sponsor with Cornell a Staff Training Workshop designed to enhance the outreach efforts of WES programs around the nation; institute internships for UW undergraduates with the European Chambers of Commerce in Seattle.